

Sent to Mr. Webb

Dr. Garrison Dr. Parkman

Boston, Massachusetts, Friday July 16. 1847.

My dear Sir,

Again do I find myself doomed to disappointment in regard to a letter to you; not ~~that~~ that I do not expect to make something of a letter out of this, but it will of necessity be hurried, and omit many things I wish to say. I have tried hard to get some time, within the past 4 or 5 days, to write you somewhat deliberately, but have been foiled. The duties of my new situation as Agent of the Mass. Society have not yet become accustomed, and they occupy nearly all my time & thoughts. By the Steamship of 1st September, I hope to send you your pamphlet "Brief Account", with the additions, &c. which you asked for a long time since. It will probably be sent in the bundle with "Chr. Examiner", to care of Chapmans. - I hope you have, by this time, received a parcel I sent to you, in this way, on the 1st July.

But I must go no farther, till I thank you for your Letter in the "Inquirer" of June 12 - to Mr. Taggart. Thank you for it, my dear Sir, a thousand times. What real pleasure did I take in reading it, and how I taken in re-reading it, since! It is so timely, so just yet temperate, so much to the point! - I cannot tell you how well I liked it. Permit me to say that I think it unsurpassed by anything you have said, ~~or~~ done - for it is a noble deed - on this great subject of our republican and Christian Slavery!! - and I am very glad you purpose printing it as a tract. I hope you will. I have repeatedly said every American Unitarian ought to see it & read it; and, equally at least, ought every British & Irish Unitarian. I should be glad to procure copies for circulation here. I think very likely it may get a cheap re-print ~~with us~~ ^{with us}. It has appeared this week both in the "Liberator" and "Standard". Mr. Garrison was highly pleased with the letter, & needed no urging to print it. I suspect nothing was said to Mr. Gay about printing it - (I sent him a paper containing it) - it commended itself to him. I have taken some pains to have it printed in the "Chr. World" and "Chr. Register". I have written to both Editors, and seen them both, about it. The Register man talks of "extracts", though his sheet is a capacious & a stupid one, and might well afford now & then to put in something as real as your letter. The "World" is also, it seems, not a large World, and the Editor feels that, in his leper columns, room can hardly be found for the whole of it. Nevertheless, I think it will all appear there, and in next week's paper, most likely. The "World" is a little afraid of Dr. Parkman - the "Register", a good deal. For myself I have come to feel very well satisfied that Dr. Parkman was produced, before the B. & F. U. A. Meeting, by Mr. Armstrong. I trust he has got a good lifting to undergo; I find it a very general opinion about me that no one needs it more. He wrote, I understand, to Mr. Armstrong by the 1st July Steamship. Mr. A. I am sure, will not be alarmed

at the event, neither will he be deceived thereby. 'Tis the nature of Slavery and of proslavery to be arbitrary & magisterial; and such Dr. Parkman's tone always is, on this subject of Slavery. Perhaps nothing more ~~fully~~ convincingly proves its real weakness, & that of all its abettors. As to taking any thing back, directly or indirectly, - I have no fears that it will be done. All that Mr. Armstrong ^{said} can be fully sustained. - My letter, designed for the "Inquirer", has reached you, I trust, before this time. My hope that it will be published has increased. I cannot endure the thought of being suspected of taking refuge in an anonymous letter, or under cover of a private letter, and quite as little do I wish that Mr. Armstrong sh^d. have the responsibility of my words upon his head. True, I did not pen the expression about Dr. P. for a public use; but, as already said, I have become pretty well reconciled to it, and think I can see that good is to come of it. It will not sweeten Dr. P.'s temper towards me; but that was already irrevocably soured; - and one thing is sure, I do not respect him enough to regret the loss of his friendship. I was talking, yesterday, with Dr. Gannett, and he censured me for what I had said of Dr. Parkman. "He is no more of a proslavery man" said he "than I am". I replied, "I am very sorry, Dr. Gannett, that you put yourself in the same category with Dr. Parkman on this subject. I ~~have~~ do not, and never have, and I know of the community generally do not place you there. Your course & his are ^{wholly} unlike, ~~as you say~~, and I repeat my opinion that there is no more pro-slavery individual among us than Dr. Parkman; of which I am ready, at any time, to give you proof." With all Dr. G.'s approximation towards free speech & true views, as to Slavery, (a very slow approxⁿ at best), he feels as bitterly towards the Abolitionists as ever. There's no good in them, in his estimation. One thing is certain, if it had not been for the Abolitionists, we never should have had anything from Dr. Gannett on this matter (as now we have - pretty good for him - in last Examiner), and he distinctly told me it was the course of the Abolitionists which constrained him to speak out. For me, I am well satisfied with the result, so far. We have always said, If we are wrong, do you, who see our faults, who are more wise & more judicious, ^{than we} show us a more excellent way. But this they have been slow to do, and, slowly, creepingly, & with many groans & protestations, they take step by step the self-same path which the Abolitionists ~~took~~ years ago. That is, those who have any conscience do this; those who haven't, will hate & oppose & loathe us, as before. - It was at your instance, you say, that Mr. Armstrong withheld my name when so loudly called for by Messrs. Madge & Thompson. I thank you for your friendly intention; but should have been better pleased, under the circumstances, had my name been spoken aloud in your meeting; and, if it possibly be that my humble name has

those who would have endeavored to stain it amongst you, I should have rejoiced to have them appear. I can make good my words to all discerning men - I have no fear on that point. - Only this week, Rev. C. Lutton of Medford said to me, about Dr. Parkman, "I saw 3 or 4 years since I had occasion to ~~seek~~ seek an interview with Dr. P. on the subject of Slavery, and mention having been made of Dr. Channing's writings, &c. on Slavery. Dr. Parkman said, What a pity it was that Dr. C. should ever have meddled with that subject, losing that eminent position, & parting with that beautiful influence, which he had among us! Why, added the Dr., when I was called upon to take part in the Funeral Services of Dr. Channing, I felt really embarrassed, and I was finally obliged to go back twenty years, and take Dr. Channing as he then was, before I could satisfactorily discharge the service." Think of that! Think of what those twenty last years of Dr. C.'s life ^{were} - Consider that in them he produced his noblest thoughts on the great practical questions of the day - that in those years he wrote & said all (a very nearly all) he had ever ~~written~~ ^{written} & said on Temperance, on the Laboring Classes, on Slavery, constantly progressing & going upward in the path of Christian humanity to the last moment of his life - and then think of the Speech of Parkman, and say if it was not an insult to Channing's memory that such a man should have been called to speak at his obsequies! - I wish the above fact had been in my last letter - viz. the one designed for the "Inquirer".

But I must pass to ^{another and perchance} a more agreeable subject than Dr. Parkman; for in half an hour my letter must be on its way to the Caledonia's Mailbag. - I send you by this mail, a packet containing 2 papers - one the "C. Register", containing a portion of a letter which Dr. Hutton of London has written to Dr. Parkman, in reply to the Invitation. There is a rebuttal in the letter, and for that I am glad, though it is very gently administered. In tomorrow's "Register" Dr. Montgomery's letter is to appear. If there is any particular value in that part of Dr. Hutton's letter, which is omitted, I hope he will supply it, so that we may know all about it.

Frederick Douglass has just been in - (the above 10 lines have been written, and I am now writing, in the Anti-Slavery Office) - he says, "Give my respects to Mr. Estlin, and my cordial sympathy in all he is doing, & my thanks too, to bring the people on his side the water to a right understanding of this mighty question; - Say to him, I am well and my face still toward the enemy." This he said to you & Mr. Haughton conjointly - I have written to Mr. H. by this ship.

I must go back to Dr. Parkman again! just to say that a nephew of his will probably be in England before a great while - Rev. John Parkman of Dover, New Hampshire, a most excellent man, and an uncompromising Abolitionist. I hope you will fall in with him; I urged his going to Bristol, and he said he should like letters of introduction to my friends there. I told him I would

then, whenever called upon. This was a year ago; he sailed to the South of Europe, intending an absence of 2 years or more. He said he should write to me when he ~~got~~ was about going to England, and would like to have me send him letter of introduction then. I fearlessly appeal, even to him a blood-relation, for all essential confirmation of what I have said of Mr. P. It could not be expected, indeed, that he would say all I have said, nor would it clearly be proper to ask him to assent to just my propositions. But, if you will inquire of him, What Dr. P.'s position & relation to the Antislavery Cause is, ~~Dear~~ I shall feel obliged to you.

The "Mr. Thompson, from the U.S." who came up at the Hackney meeting, I have reason to believe ~~was~~ is Mr. Pishey Thompson, an Englishman by birth, and long a resident in Washington city, the centre of the District of Columbia, in the midst of Slaves, Slave-prisons, & Slave-markets. In a certain sense, he is well-acquainted, I doubt not, with all the signers of the Boston invitation. But for his opinion of their Antislavery, or anybody's, I do not think much, whether he is, or has been, himself a Slaveowner, I know not. I meant to have ascertained the fact before this - but forgot it. I did ask a Boston gentleman, well-acquainted with Washington people & society, if Mr. Thompson owned Slaves. He said he knew nothing on the subject; but added, if Mr. T. had any servants at all, they were doubtless Slaves, his own or hired of others - for in the D. & C. there are few or no other servants but the Slaves. Very many persons there, and elsewhere, live by hiring out their Slaves, as mechanics, waiters, day-laborers, to hotels, private families, &c. &c. I have no doubt whatever - nay, it is morally certain, that Mr. Pishey Thompson has been a great deal mixed up with Slavery. The value of his testimony to a Minister's Antislavery is obvious. The ~~value~~ ^{importance} of his censures upon the Abolitionists must ~~also~~ be equally obvious.

Rev. J. H. Hedge of Bangor Maine is now in England. He is a man of decided talent, a writer of much power, considerably interested in the Slavery question, but with some particular, anti-associated action, crochets about it, such as our Ministers are "dreadful apt" to have. He is a good man, and I should be glad to have you fall in with him.

The Bridgewater friends have ~~just~~ got a Reply to the Bridgewater (English) Address, with 18 feet of Signatures, they say; and will forward it, by first opp. by which they can avoid a serious expense.

Francis Alger Esq. of this city explained to me that the idea of the Boston invitation originated with him - "no pro-slavery about it", said he. He wished me to explain this to my Bristol friends. He told me he was a Colonizationist, & had long been one!

I have not properly noticed your last valuable letter, recd. Sunday, July 4. - I have no more time. Most respectfully & gratefully, Yours, Saml May. 9